

(b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Mr. Hatfield shall submit his written findings as of May 1, 2006, to the Federal Communications Commission not later than 60 days after receiving the payment described in subsection (a).

#### SEC. 9. 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007.

Section 2301 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (47 U.S.C. 901 note) is amended by striking “the ‘Improving Emergency Communications Act of 2007.’” and inserting “the ‘9/11 Modernization Act’”.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I thank the Senate. This has been 2 years coming because 2 years ago, a young mother in Deltona, FL, which is north of Orlando in Volusia County, watched her baby die as she tried in vain to reach emergency 911. She had a telephone that she did not realize, because it was voice over the Internet, there was no provision for emergency 911 services.

Following that tragedy of the death of that child, where a 911 emergency response team never arrived because they did not receive the call, we introduced this bipartisan legislation that requires all VOIP providers to offer the emergency 911 service, and this legislation gives them the tools they need in order to do that.

We have been working on this legislation a long time. It passed the Commerce Committee unanimously in 2005. It was also added to a Senate port security bill in 2006, and then the conference committee stripped it out.

Since the bill was first introduced, to the credit of the Federal Communications Commission, they took some action to require that VOIP customers have full access to the emergency 911. We appreciate that very much. But there are holes in those regulations. Those holes need to be filled, and this legislation we passed tonight—and is very similar to a House bill that passed a couple of months ago—will fill those legislative holes.

This legislation will resolve any remaining questions regarding the Federal Communications Commission jurisdiction over VOIP services by requiring full access to 911 service by the VOIP customers.

This bill also resolves any issues relating to the potential liability of the VOIP providers that offer access to 911 services. The legislation also requires the national E-911 Implementation Coordination Office to work with industry to oversee the next generation of emergency 911 network.

This network is going to be resilient and redundant. It is going to allow 911 calls to automatically be routed to a functional 911 call center in the event of a disaster. Think about what happened down in New Orleans during Katrina. We had a certain way these 911 calls had to go to get to the emergency call center. Some of those lines were out of service, and so those calls never got there.

This new system is going to send these little packets of information in any route it can to get to that call center. It is going to be redundant, it is

going to be resilient so we will not have a repeat of people desperately down in New Orleans making 911 calls and not getting a response.

This is a chart that pretty well depicts that every day thousands of Americans rely on these call centers so they can reach responders, and every day we have to wait to upgrade the network and those lives are at risk.

We have gone all the way from just the rotary service telephones to the future, where we have something like these iPhones we have today that have so many different services on them. We need a system that can get this emergency service through these new kinds of mechanisms. That is what we are going to do.

Going back to this terrible tragedy that happened a couple years ago in my State, this is just one newspaper headline that said trying to get that 911 call, it couldn't go because there was not a provision in VOIP.

Lives have been lost. Lives were at risk. They are still at risk until we can get this legislation signed into law. I am extremely grateful to the Senate for having passed this legislation tonight.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—AMENDMENT NO. 3896, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of S. 1200, the Vitter amendment 3896 be modified with the change at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 309, strike lines 1-7 and insert the following:

#### “SEC. 805. LIMITATION RELATING TO ABORTION.

“(a) DEFINITION OF HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE.—In this section, the term ‘health benefits coverage’ means a health-related service or group of services provided pursuant to a contract, compact, grant, or other agreement.

“(b) LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no funds or facilities of the Service may be used—

“(A) to provide any abortion; or

“(B) to provide, or pay any administrative cost of, any health benefits coverage that includes coverage of an abortion.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The limitation described in paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case in which—

“(A) a pregnancy is the result of an act of rape, or an act of incest against a minor; or

“(B) the woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that, as certified by a physician, would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.”.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law

107-12, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 27; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans in control of the first half and the majority in control of the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume the motion to proceed to S. 2633; further, I ask that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. and that all time during any recess, adjournment, or morning business count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:03 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SHEILA MCNAMARA GREENWOOD, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE STEVEN B. NESMITH, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

EDWIN ECK, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008, VICE KAREN HASTIE WILLIAMS, TERM EXPIRED.

KENNETH E. CARPINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 21, 2010, VICE ROBERT M. TOBIAS, TERM EXPIRED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PETER E. CIANCHETTE, OF MAINE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

##### THE JUDICIARY

COLM F. CONNOLLY, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE, VICE KENT A. JORDAN, ELEVATED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PAUL A. SCHNEIDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE MICHAEL JACKSON, RESIGNED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION: